

Trails: Sheep Rock Unit

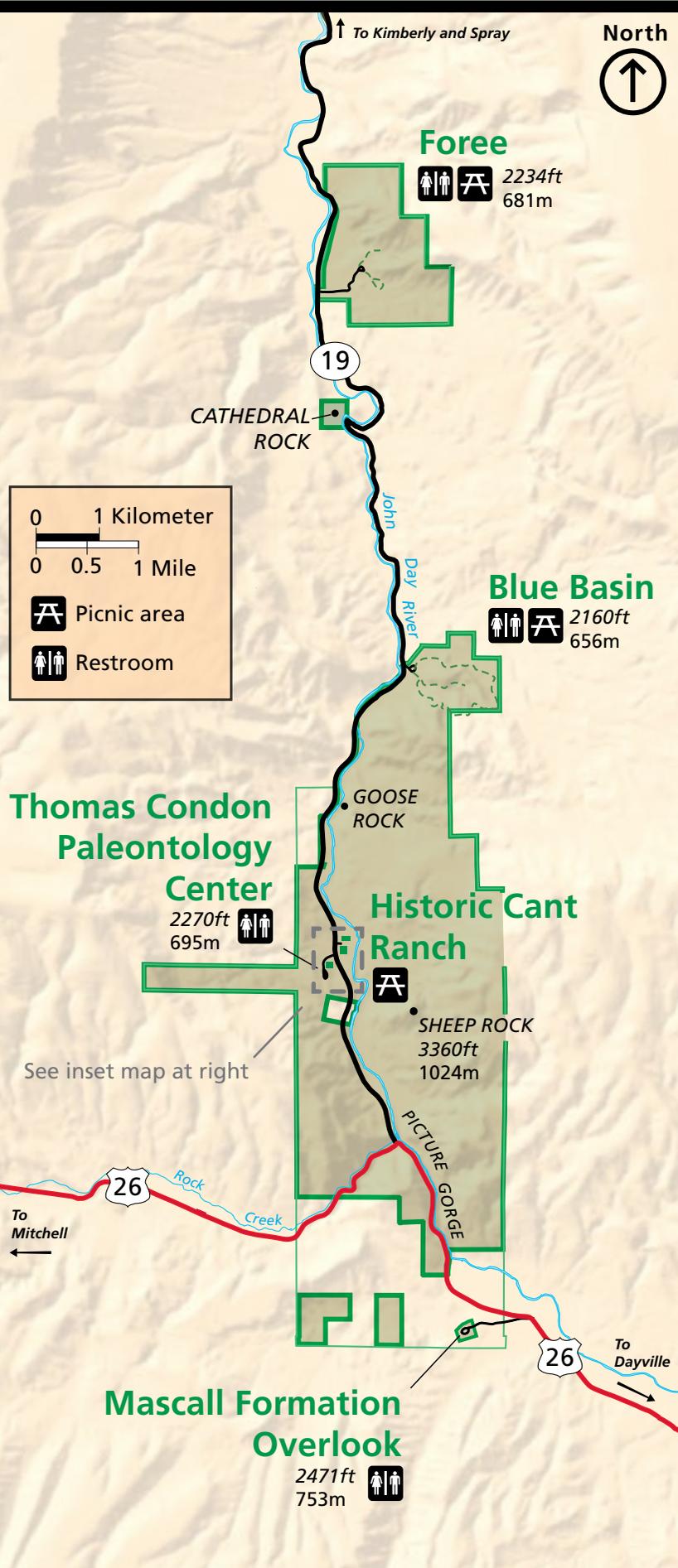
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

John Day Fossil Beds
www.nps.gov/joda

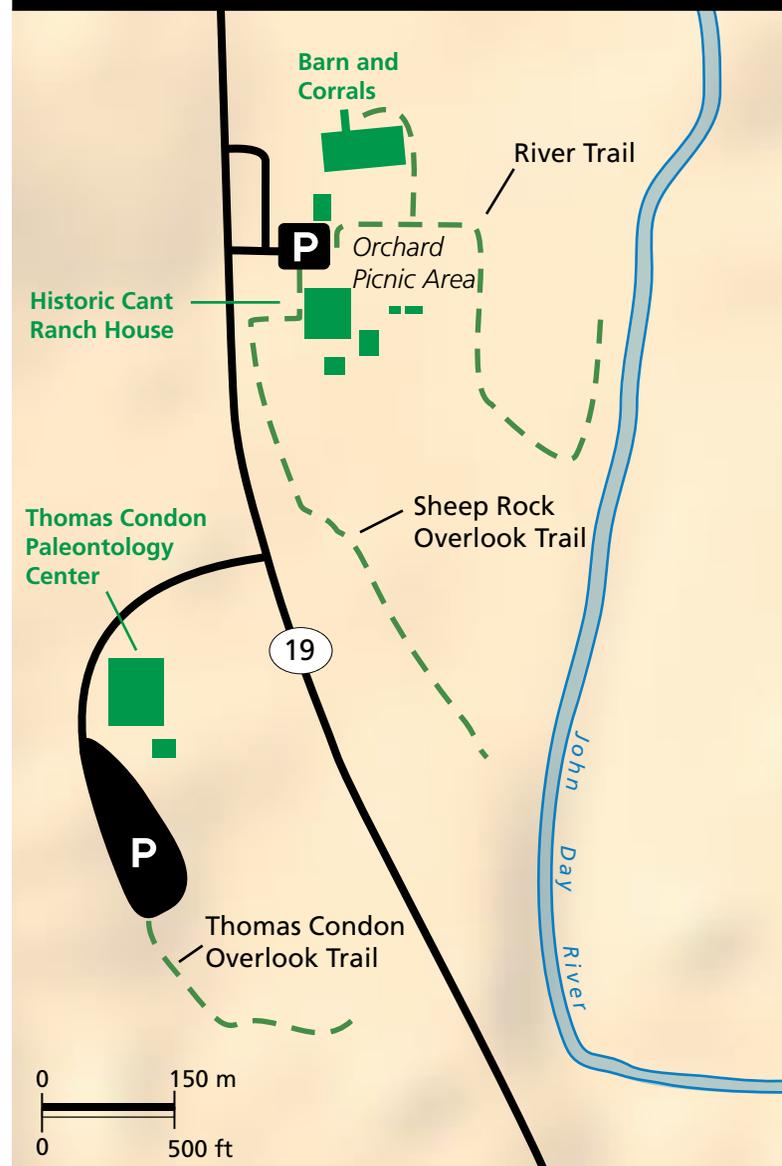


The colorful landscapes of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument's three units represent 40 million years of Oregon history. Evidence of volcanic activity, environmental changes, and ancient plant and animal life abounds. The monument offers many opportunities at each unit to explore these dramatic landscapes. Trails are open all year during daylight hours but may be muddy and slippery when wet. Parking is available for cars, RVs, and buses at all trailheads. Pets are welcome but they must be kept on trails and on a leash at all times.

Fossils from the Sheep Rock area are rare and fragile. Any that are exposed are collected by scientists for protection. Remember that all fossils, historic structures, archeological features, rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law and may not be collected or disturbed. For the protection of fossils under the surface, walking on exposed fossil beds is prohibited. This includes badland-like surfaces that have few to no plants growing on them. Please let a ranger know if you think you found a fossil on a trail in the Sheep Rock unit or if you see anyone digging for fossils.



Paleontology Center and Cant Ranch Trails



River Trail [0.6 mile round trip]
Starting at the end of the Cant Ranch parking lot, this trail passes through the historic fields and orchard down to the John Day River. Fruit may be collected when in season.

Sheep Rock Overlook Trail [1/2 mile round trip]
Starting at the front gate of the Cant Ranch House, this mostly level trail ends at an overlook with a view down to the river and Sheep Rock high above.

Thomas Condon Overlook Trail [1/4 mile round trip]
This trail starts at the far end of the paleontology center parking lot and reaches an overlook of the river valley. The trail is steep at the beginning.

Foree

North



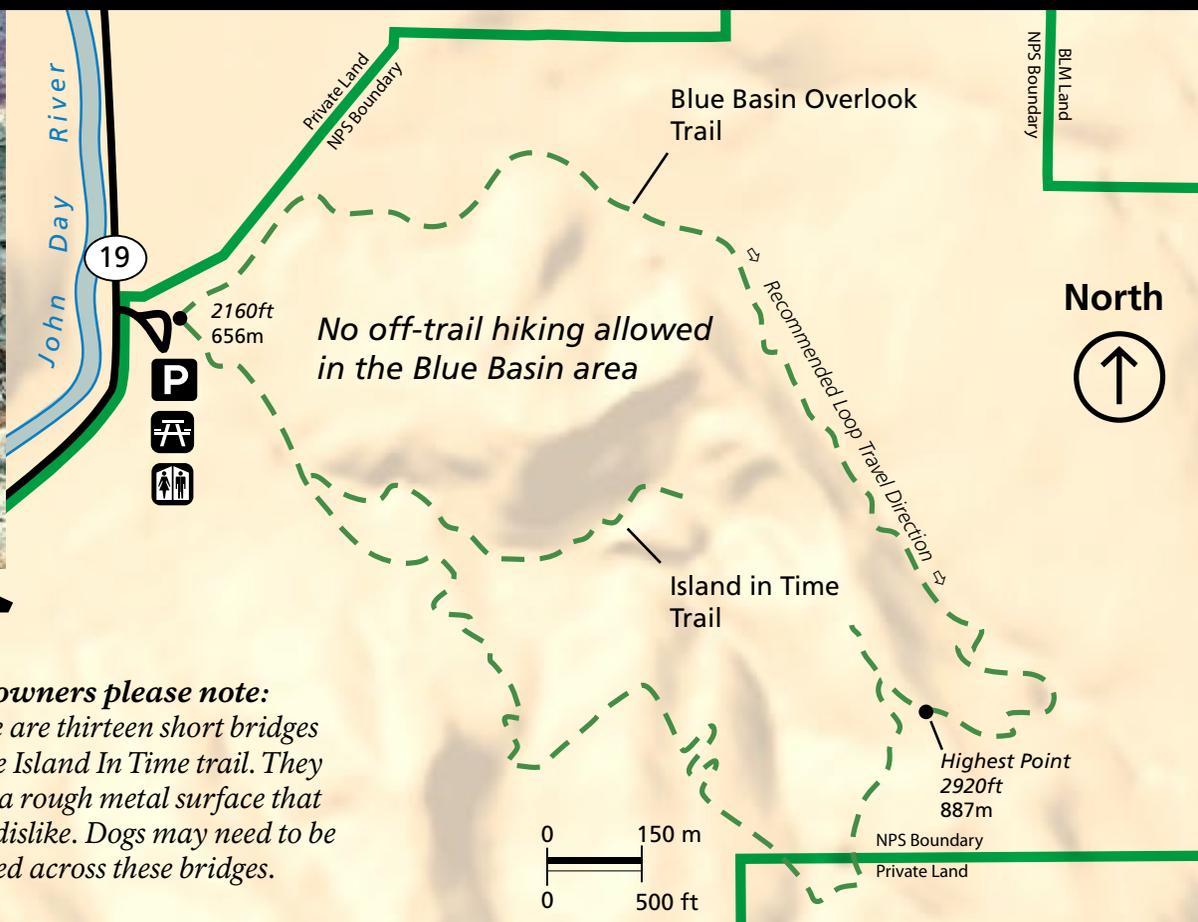
Story In Stone Trail [1/2 mile round trip]

Erosion created several colorful badland exposures that are visible along the path and in the distance. This level trail is wide and mostly paved.

Flood Of Fire Trail [1/2 mile round trip]

This trail ends at a dramatic cliff face and a view down to the colorful geologic formations along the river valley. It is a gradual climb with a few stair steps.

Blue Basin



Dog owners please note:
There are thirteen short bridges on the Island In Time trail. They have a rough metal surface that dogs dislike. Dogs may need to be carried across these bridges.

Island In Time Trail [1.3 mile round trip]

This trail follows the canyon floor and gently ascends through blue-green canyon walls. Exhibits and fossil replicas along the trail tell the story of the fossil landscape. This trail has 220 feet of mostly gradual elevation gain. Dog owners see notice above.

Blue Basin Overlook Trail [3.25 mile loop]

Climbing to an overlook of Blue Basin, this trail provides breathtaking views down into steep badlands and grand vistas of the John Day River valley. Clay surfaces are very slippery when wet. This strenuous trail includes 760 feet of elevation gain.